the recent Conference of Chief Ministers priority has been given to this programme as well as to the suggestions relating to doctors and medicines. We have every intention to bring this to the notice of the State Governments. The Government of India and the Planning Commission give very high priority to these basic common services.

श्रीमती मालती शर्मा: मंत्री जी, हम तो केवल इतना जानना चाहते हैं कि आपने जंगलों में जो आज हैल्थ सैंटर खोल दिए हैं और वहां जो महिलाएं आपने नर्सेज के रूप मे रखी हैं, उनकी भी मजबूरी है क्योंकि जंगलों में उनकी इज्जत तक सुरक्षित नहीं है। तो उसके लिए आप क्या प्रबंध करने जा रहे हैं?

श्री योगेन्द्र कुमार अलघ: मैं नम्रता से ऑनोरेबिल मेंबर से निवेदन करूंगा कि यह हमारी एक नेशनल समस्या है। भारत सरकार तो इन सेंटर्स को चलाती नहीं है, राज्य सरकारें चलाती हैं और मैंने बड़ी फ्रैंकनेस से यह जो त्रुटियां हैं, उनको माना है और इसके लिए हम पूरा प्रयत्न करेंगे कि एक तो इन स्कीम्स को हम प्राथमिकता दें और राज्य सरकारों को जो इनकी त्रुटियां हैं जो ऑनोरेबिल मेंबर ने कही हैं, उनको ठीक किया जाए। कई चीफ मिनिस्टर ने यह बात की जो ऑनोरेबिल मेंबर ने की कि पहाड़ी इलाकों में और जंगल के इलाकों में अगर सड़क न हो तो डाक्टर को वहां भेजना मुश्किल हो जाता है और वहां की जो महिलाएं हैं उनको मुश्किल पड़ती है रैफरल हॉस्पिटल में भेजने के लिए। इस समस्या को हम पूरी प्राथमिकता देना चाहते हैं। यह कहा गया है कि हर एक गांव को ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती मालती शर्मा: अध्यक्ष जी, मैं बात कर रही हूं उन आबादी की, उन गांवों की जो अच्छे बसे हुए हैं परन्तु उनमे सेंटर आपने जंगलों में बनाएं हैं और जंगलों में सेंटर बनाने से आज वहां महिलाओं की इज्जत सुरक्षित नहीं है। कैसे आप मैटरनिटी के लिए वहा महिलाओं को सुविधा दे रहे हैं। उसके लिए आप क्या प्रबन्ध करेंगे?

श्री योगेन्द्र कुमार अलघ: मैं फिर यह कहूंगा कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में सड़क बनाना तथा जो प्राथमिक सेवाएं हैं जो बाकी गांव हैं उनमें यह निश्चय किया गया है कि अगले तीन सालों में जिन गांवों में कनेक्टेड रोड़ नहीं है, वह दी जाएं। ...**(व्यवधान)** देखिए, plese let me finish. These are serious questions. These are not questions...*(Interruptions)*...

मैडम, राज्य के स्तर पर राज्य सरकार, पंचायत संस्थाएं और नॉन-गवर्नमेंटल आर्गनाइजेशन को भी स्वयं, सेवी संस्थाओं को जो समस्या आप कह रही है औरतों के लिए, उन को इसमें इंवोल्वड करना और उनकी सिक्योरिटी के लिए कुछ करना यह एक तरीका होगा जो हमें सोचना चाहिए। क्योंकि...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती मालती शर्मा: मंत्री जी, ...**(व्यवधान)**

Dialogue With Terrorist Outfits of Assam

*24. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering initiation of bilateral or tripartite dialogues with ULFA, NSCN, Bodo Security Force and other terrorist outfits of Assam as advocated by the Assam Chief Minister; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b) The Government of India believes in solution of problems through talks and negoitations to bring about peace, stability and development. The Government of India is prepared for talks with any group which is willing to work within the framework of the Constitution of India and abjure violence. No talks have been initiated with the terrorist outfits operating in Assam, as they have not as of now, indicated their willingness for talks within the above parameters and are continuing with violence. The Government of India categorically rejects violence as a means of achieving any objective.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Sir, I am thankful to the Minister that he has given a very short but very thoughtful answer to my question. The only difference now is that it is not Mr. Indrajit Gupta, our very beloved leader of the Communist Party of India but the new Minister for Home Affairs.

Sir, it is not merely a question of law and order. The so-called insurgency

problem in Assam is far deeper. May I know from the hon. Minister whether, instead of just adhering to this question of violence being still propagated or in practice in the North-East, particularly in Assam, there is some political initiative or move to put an end to this sort of a peculiar and very said situation in the North-East.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUJPTA: Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member and that is the view of the Government also that this kind of prolonged insurgencies which have been going on for a pretty long time are extremely painful and are the cause of concern for the whole country. I agree that they cannot be solved simply by the gun or the use of force. I think, by now, we have had enough experience to realise that gun is not the solution to these problems. The hon. Member wanted to know whether any political initiatives have ben taken or are going to be taken to tackle these problems. Here, I have got to say, unfortunately to repeat what is said in the original reply, that efforts have been made. It is not that efforts have not been made. The Chief Minister of Assam himself had, at one stage, proposed talks with ULFA but later on we found some statements issued in the name of ULFA saying that they were not interested in having this kind of talks.

Secondly, Sir, they are insisting that their original demand for a sovereign state of Assam, outside India, must be accepted and adhered to. Well, I do not think this House will concede that the sovereigntly of this country can be negotiated or bartered. These are the obstacles which have arisen in the way of having fruitful negoitiations not only with ULFA but also with Bodos and even with some of the other outfits. But, I assure the House that the new Government which has just now come to power will resume all possible initiatives that can be taken in order to break this deadlock and try to come to some negotiated settlement.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Sir, the genesis of the problem, is such that it requires deeper study and deeper thought. One of the reasons is socio-economic and demographic imbalances and unjust proposition being perpetrated by vested interests of the various States for many decades. The history of Assam so far has been one of denial deprivation, discrimination, neglect and continuing exploitation of its vast resources. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether anything is being done in this regard for the economic development of Assam, particularly after the report of the Joint Committee has been taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Damage due to heavy Rains and Cyclones

*25. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of lives lost and the extent of damage caused to the standing crops, livestock and other properties in different areas in the country due to heavy rains and cyclones;

(b) the details of relief operations undertaken in the affected areas; and

(c) the Central assistance provided for relief work?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) According to reports received from the State Governments, parts of 13 States have been affected in varying degrees by floods as a result of cyclones and heavy rains during the current South West Monsoon. The States affected are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. A Statement indicating loss of human lives and animals and damage to crops and houses in the wake of the recent